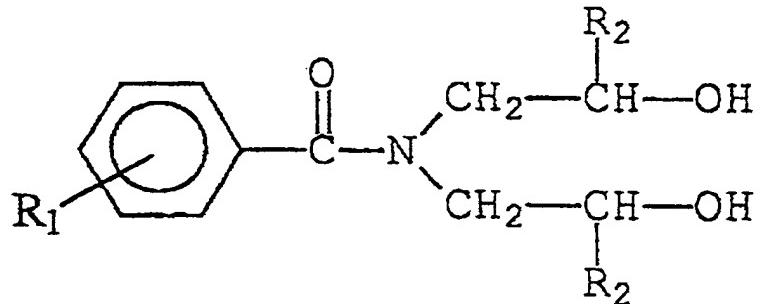


IN THE CLAIMS

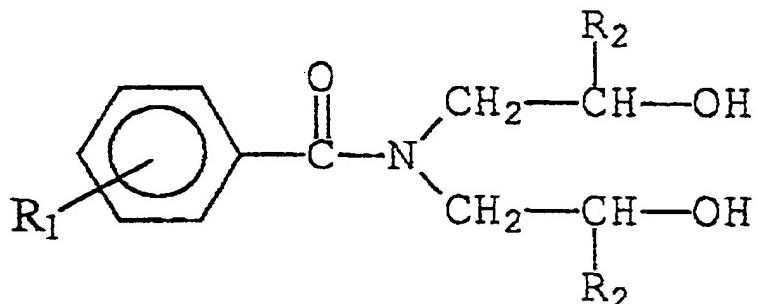
1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A cross-linker for polymers comprising the  $\alpha$ - $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 1 having the general formula:



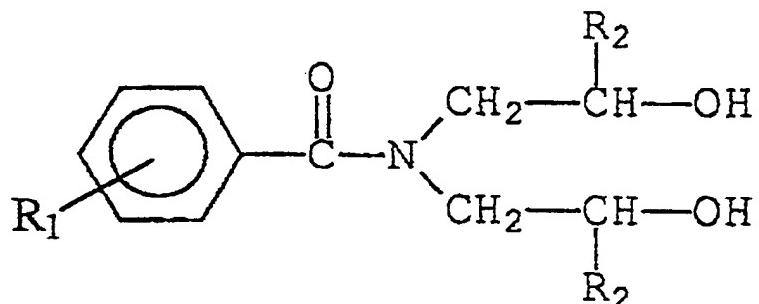
*b'*  
wherein  $R_1$  is H or a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_{10}$  alkyl and  $R_2$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl.

12. (currently amended) A cross-linker for polymers powder coats comprising the a  
~~β-hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 1 having the general formula:~~



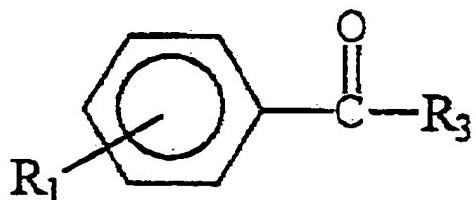
wherein  $R_1$  is H or a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_{10}$  alkyl and  $R_2$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl.

13. (currently amended) A cross linker for polyester powder coats comprising the  $\alpha$ - $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide made from the process of claim 10 having the general formula:



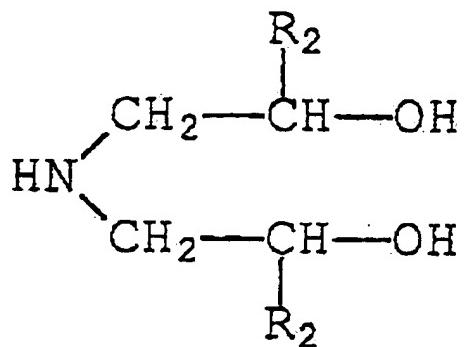
wherein  $R_1$  is H or a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_{10}$  alkyl and  $R_2$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl;

wherein the  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide is made from a process comprising reacting a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II:



II

where R<sub>3</sub> is halogen or OR<sub>4</sub>, whereby R<sub>4</sub> stands for a linear C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, with an alkanolamine having the general Formula III:



III

---

and where R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are defined as indicated above.

- b1*  
Cont
14. (previously presented) The cross-linker as claimed in Claim 11, comprising a mixture of β-hydroxyalkylamide and another cross linker selected from the β-hydroxyalkylamides and/or epoxies.